

ABSTRACT

A luminous display device with a decreased inactive display area, thereby enabling an active display area of the device to be larger, and a method for making the same. The device includes a first and second circular plates being fused at an outer edge and having a diameter (D); a recess provided on an inner surface of the plates to define an interior portion surrounded by an outer rim with a width (W); a layer of beads held in position in the recess by the first and second fused plates and the outer rim; an ionizable gas filling a volume of the recess around the layer of beads; an electrode in communication with the ionizable gas for receiving a high frequency voltage and creating a lightning-like effect, which is visible in an active display of the first and second plates. A diameter of the active display is defined by $D-2W$ and is at least 90% of the overall diameter of the plates.